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REPORT

OF THE

DIRECTORS OF THE KANSAS

STATE PENITENTIARY,

FOR

THE YEAR 1863.

LAWRENCE:
PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE KANSAS TRIBUNE.

1864.

To the Governor and Legislature of the State of Kansas:—

The Directors of the Penitentiary of the State of Kansas, appointed by virtue of an act entitled "An Act to provide for the erection and regulation of a Penitentiary and making an appropriation therefor," approved February 21st, A. D., 1863, in compliance with said act, herewith transmit their first annual

REPORT.

Soon after having received their appointment, the Directors entered upon the duties of their office, and for the purpose of obtaining the most approved plan for a State Penitentiary visited the prisons in the States of New York, Ohio, Michigan and Illinois, and on the 22nd day of May, last past, they employed by contract Erasmus T Carr, a competent person, as architect, to prepare plans and specifications for a Penitentiary building. The Architect visited the Penitentiary at Joliet, Illinois, and obtained the plans and specifications of that building, and from this basis, prepared plans and specifications for the Kansas State Penitentiary, which were adopted by the Directors, and are herewith submitted.

They then advertised for proposals for the erection of a portion of the prison according to plans, and on the third day of September, the time fixed in the advertisement, they met at the office of the Secretary of State, at Topeka, and no proposals having been filed, they adjourned their meeting till the thirteenth day of October, 1863, when they met according to appointment, and again adjourned till the twenty-seventh day of the same month. On that day the Directors met at the said office of the Secretary of State, at Topeka, and found four proposals on file. The proposals were opened; but the Directors being unable to agree in awarding the contract, they again adjourned, to meet at the office of S. S. Ludlum, in the City of Leavenworth, on the fifth day of November, A. D., 1863. The Directors met at the appointed time and place, and on the sixteenth day of the same month, at a regular meeting of said board, the contract was awarded to John A. McRae, and Messrs. Morrison and Elmsley, they being the lowest bidders for the work. Ten days were allowed the parties to furnish security for the faithful performance of the contract, which

they failed to produce, when the contract was finally awarded to Messrs. John McCarthy and Calvin Adams, who have complied with the requirements of the statute, and entered into a written contract, which is now on file in the office of the Secretary of State.

KEEPING PRISONERS.

A contract was made with the Board of County Commissioners for Leavenworth County, for the boarding and safe keeping of the State prisoners, at the sum of seventy-five cents per day, which agreement will expire on the eleventh day of January A.D., 1864.

MEDICAL ATTENDANCE.

Dr. S. W. Jones was employed by contract to furnish the prisoners with medical attendance in case of sickness, at the usual charges in similar cases, which agreement is still in force and under which Dr. Jones continues to perform his duties.

LABOR OF CONVICTS.

The Directors have been unable to contract for the labor of the convicts at any price; and from present appearances, they will continue to be unemployed until the contractors for building a portion of the Penitentiary shall commence their work.

CONVICTS.

The whole number of convicts now in the temporary prison is thirty-three, a statement hereunto attached marked exhibit "A," contains a full report of the names of all convicts confined in the Penitentiary during the year ending January 1st, A. D., 1864—the date of conviction—the crime of which convicted—when and where convicted—the county where the conviction was had—duration of sentence—time of reception of convict—who have died or been pardoned, and a full description of the person of each prisoner.

APPROPRIATIONS.

The appropriation made for the Penitentiary building at the Session of 1863, was	$25,000.00
For services of Directors and salary of Warden, .	3,000.00
	$28,000.00
Of which there has been expended for salaries of Directors, ...	$. 872.00

For lithographs of the plans and paid Architect,	508.00	
For printing, and blank books, ...	71.00	
For plans of Ohio Penitentiary, ...	7.00	
		$1458.00
Leaving a balance unexpended of		$26,542.00

Accounts have been audited and orders certified to the Auditor of State as follows, to wit:—

In favor of A. Cohen, for clothing for prisoners, . .	$1019.70
" Dr. Jones, medical attendance, ...	356.50
" G. J. Park, for medicines, ...	71.15
" County Commission, for boarding prisoners, .	5687.25
	$7134.60

The Directors would further report, that the large number of prisoners confined in the county jail of the County of Leavenworth, which is used for the time being as a State Prison, from necessity are so crowded together that their health has become endangered. Arrangements have been made for the confinement of a portion of the prisoners at other localities within the State until the contractors shall commence work on the Penitentiary building.

The Directors have experienced much embarrasment arising out of the peculiar state of the country, the high price of labor, and the tardy manner in which they were compelled to act by reason of the provisions of the Act of the Legislature by which they have been governed. They are confident that they have adopted the very best plan for a Penitentiary to secure the present and future wants of the State. The plan is similar to that of the Joliet prison which is conceded to contain all the modern improvements adopted in such buildings.

The necessary delay in adopting a suitable plan and the letting of the contract, made it impossible to commence work on the building with the prospect of completing any portion of it during the year 1863. Consequently only a small portion of the appropriation made at the last session of the Legislature has been expended.

We would further state, that in order to carry out the plans and specifications adopted for the erection of a portion of the Penitentiary, and to complete the same for the reception of prisoners, an additional appropriation will be necessary.

According to the estimates of the architect, seventy-five or

eighty thousand dollars will be sufficient to complete the Warden's house and offices, and that portion of the Penitentiary contemplated to be finished. The building will then be ample to accommodate all the officers connected with the Penitentiary, their families, and one hundred and fifty prisoners.

The Directors would therefore recommend that an appropriation be made by the Legislature of seventy-five thousand dollars, for the purpose above specified.

The Directors further report, that the location selected by the former Board of Commissioners for the prison, is four miles from the city of Leavenworth, on the Kansas City road, nearly two miles from the Missouri river, and three-fourths of a mile from the line of the contemplated railroad.

Objections have been made to the location, for the reason that there appears to be a want of water, and its distance from thoroughfares connecting it with other localities in the State.

It is thought advisable, thesefore, to recommend that an act be passed authorizing the Directors to re-locate the prison within or near the limits of the city of Leavenworth; and that an appropriation be made for the purchase of a site not to exceed thirty acres of land, and at a price not to exceed a certain sum per acre. The passage of such an act will not interfere with the contract for erecting the building; as a provision has been inserted in the same providing for such an emergency.

There is no public work more needed by the State than a Penitentiary. The large number of convicts now on hand, and the prospect of that number being materially increased during the present session of our courts, make it absolutely necessary that the building should be completed at an early day.

We are glad to state that all necessary arrangements have been made to commence the work as soon as the spring shall open and the action of the Legislature shall be had in the premises.

Owing to the manner in which the prisoners have been kept, no regular system for their government has as yet been adopted. They have been properly cared for, their wants have been supplied, and, under the vigilance of Alexander Repine, Esq., who has had them in charge, not one has escaped from confinement, though the jail where they are imprisoned is not considered entirely safe.

A lithograph of the Penitentiary and the buildings, according

to the plans adopted by the directors, and a report of the architect, is herewith transmitted.

The Directors have endeavored to perform their duties thus far, and believe they have faithfully complied with the law, by which they have been governed.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

January 1, 1864.

WILLIAM DUNLAP,
JOHN WILSON,
S. S. LUDLUM,
Directors.

REPORT OF PHYSICIAN.

To the Directors of the Kansas State Penitentiary:

GENTLEMEN: I have the pleasure of reporting that during the last year there has been no malignant diseases among the prisoners, and that their general health, under all the circumstances, has been as good as could have been expected. There are a few chronic cases among them, and their close confinement necessarily renders such cases more aggravated.

I would respectfully suggest that there are too many prisoners confined in each cell for their general good health. The cells are badly ventilated, but are otherwise in a very good condition. There has been no deaths among the prisoners during the time I have attended upon them. They have been properly fed, and otherwise, in a sanitary point of view, haved been care for.

Respectfully,

January 1, 1864. S. W. JONES, M.D.

ARCHITECT'S REPORT.

To the Board of Directors of the Kansas State Penitentiary:

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to herewith transmit, for your consideration, my report of plans for a State Penitentiary.

Immediately after entering into an agreement with you as architect, etc., and at the request of the Board, I went to Joliet, Illinois, and made a full examination of the various portions of the Penitentiary at that place, which building is universally acknowledged

to possess in a great degree all the advantages which long experience in the practical workings of Penitentiaries could suggest. That Penitentiary is now nearly finished, and is in full operation, and there are very few if any alterations which the Commissioners have been able to suggest as improvements. For security, health, convenience, etc., it seems as nearly perfection as a building of that kind could be.

With the Illinois Penitentiary as a basis, I prepared plans and specifications for the Kansas State Penitentiary, which I think will meet the present and future wants of the State.

In order to meet the present emergency, and not to subject the State, in a few years, to the expense of pulling down and reconstructing a temporary and useless structure, such an one as might be erected with the present appropriation, I would recommend that the Warden's house and one prison wing be erected. The Warden's house should be enclosed, and a portion of it finished, so as to be occupied by the Warden and keeper. The wing I would recommend to be enclosed, and a sufficient number of cells to be constructed for present need. The wing to be used at first for the tripple purpose of kitchen, mess-room, and prison. To accomplish this, it will be necessary to obtain from the Legislature an additional appropriation of from fifty to sixty thousand dollars. With this amount properly expended according to contract, a work will be commenced that will be an honor to the State for all time to come.

Whatever is to be done now, should be done with an eye to the final completion of the whole plan, and thereby obtain that harmony, the want of which is too often the case in similar structures in the older States.

Owing to the unsettled state of affairs, the cost of material, etc., I have not prepared an estimate of the final cost of the structure, as contemplated by the plans.

I consider the plan as good as any that could be adopted, and one which the State should finally carry into effect. The plans will be open to the inspection of the Legislature, and at any time it will be an easy matter to make an estimate from them of the work to be done, or of any portion of it.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

E. T. CARR,
Architect.

January 1, 1864.